
PETERS TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

COURSE SYLLABUS: WRITING WORKSHOP

Course Overview and Essential Skills

This course is designed for students who want to continue developing their writing skills beyond the level of competency they have accomplished in their regularly scheduled English classes. The course concentrates on exposition, description, persuasion, narrative, process, business writing, and argumentation. Grammar instruction is included to support all writing purposes. Both group and individual instruction are employed as appropriate. By the end of this course, the goal is that students will be able to write unified, coherent, fully developed, and lucidly phrased papers. Instruction is highly individualized and any student willing to work will profit from this course.

Required Materials

- two inch binder
- pens, pencils, and highlighters

Course Outline of Material Covered:

Unit or Topic	Concepts/Skills/Resources	Timeframe
The Writing Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review and individualize the steps of the Writing Process• Generate topics of interest for writing• Create an outline• Write two “hooks”• Construct conclusions• Consider the benefits of limiting topics• Craft a thesis statement	Approximately 2 weeks
Establishing Voice	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Distinguish between active and passive voice• Avoid clichés while employing figurative language• Enhance use of transitions• Focus on precise diction• Utilize strategies to remove 2nd person voice	Approximately 2 weeks
Grammar and Sentence Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review phrases, clauses, fragments, and run-on sentences• Define clarity and conciseness• Assess ability to identify components of grammar• Participate in writing teams to collaborate	Approximately 2 weeks
Recognizing and Avoiding Common Mistakes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create a business letter• Review commonly misspelled words• Review and correctly employ commas, quotation marks,	Approximately 2 weeks

	<p>dashes, apostrophes, colons and semicolons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve clarity by eliminating misplaced, dangling modifiers 	
Art of Persuasion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and utilize parallel structure • Draft a persuasive essay with special emphasis on style, capitalization, and parallel structure • Analyze the use of appeals: ethos, logos, and pathos 	Approximately 2 weeks
Punctuation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and utilize different components of sentence structure • Develop expository skills while focusing on proper punctuation 	Approximately 2 weeks
Comparison and Contrast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine pronoun/antecedent agreement • Draft a comparison and contrast paper with special focus on proper pronoun use • Select one of the methods of comparison and contrast to fit the subject 	Approximately 2 weeks
Writing with Style	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate figurative language into a descriptive essay • Collaborate to edit an essay • Focus on revision 	Approximately 2 weeks

**Depending on the needs of the class or changes in the school year, the course outline is subject to change.*